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Attorney Docket No. 55338 (70868)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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MAY 14 2003

Technology Center 2600

APPLICANT: Nako, et al.

U.S.S.N.: 09/720,475

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

FILED: December 22, 2000

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

FOR: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, AND  
MEDIUM ON WHICH IMAGE PROCESSING PROGRAM IS RECORDED

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 8, 2003.

By:

Helen Murray Tarbi

**SEARCH REPORT INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS OR OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications or other information submitted for consideration by the Office are listed on PTO-1449, attached hereto.

II. COPIES

- a. X Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

- b. \_\_\_\_ Each of the patents, publications or other information listed on the attached PTO-1449 was previously cited by or submitted to the USPTO in connection with U.S.S.N.: \_\_\_\_\_, to which the subject application claims the benefit of the earlier filing date. As such, a copy of each is not included herewith pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d).

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE  
(check at least one box)

- a. **X** Except as may be indicated below in (b), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language or were cited in an English language Search Report, a copy of which is attached hereto (concise explanation not required).
- b. \_\_\_\_ A concise explanation of the relevance of all patents, publications or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows:

- \_\_\_\_ English translation for reference(s) \_\_\_\_.
- X** English abstract for reference **B1**.
- X** English translation of search report.
- X** Copy of PCT/EPO Search Report.

- c. **X** The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration:

- X** A copy of EPO Search Report.
- \_\_\_\_ A copy of PCT Search Report.
- \_\_\_\_ A copy of Official Communication from the \_\_\_\_\_ Patent Office.
- \_\_\_\_ English translation of search report/ official communication from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_ Copy of \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicants acknowledge that only three of the six references cited in the enclosed EPO Search Report are listed on the enclosed PTO-1449. As to the other three references, Applicants would note that each of these references were earlier identified by Applicants to the USPTO. Specifically, EP 0509836 was submitted for consideration in an IDS dated June 17, 1996 and USP 5,132,945 and EP 0361970 were submitted for consideration in an IDS dated September 20, 1996. Accordingly, Applicants did not redundantly list these three references in the enclosed PTO-1449 even though they appear in the EPO Search Report.

**FEES**

IV. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)  
(check one box)

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ within three months of the filing date of a national application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (1)). No fee or certification is required.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (2)). No fee or certification is required.
- c. **X** before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) (3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below, or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$240.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):  
(check one box)

before the mailing date of a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (1)) or before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311 (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (2)).

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$240.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- or
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ See the certification below. No fee is required.

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that

- a. **X** each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ no item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable

inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

- c. \_\_\_\_\_ Some of the items of information were cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office. As to this information, the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in the IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

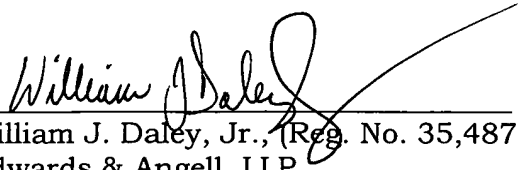
VII. FEE PAYMENT (check one)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$240.00 for the above-indicated fee.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105 in the amount of \$240.00 for the above-indicated fee.
- X** No fee is required.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this IDS, he/she is requested to contact the undersigned. If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule, with a petition if necessary, and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 8, 2003

  
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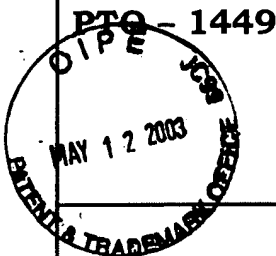
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Statement**Atty. Docket No  
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Filing Date  
December 22, 2000Art Unit  
Not Yet Assigned**UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	File Date

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	Document Number	Date	Country or Office	Class	
	B1	57178474	02/11/1982	Japan		

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (INCL. TITLE, AUTHOR, DATE, PAGES, ETC)**

Exam. Initials	Ref. No.	

Examiner:

Date: